

A1-IV-A-085

Maryland Glass Company  
Between Baltimore, Ohio Railroad and Queen Street  
Cumberland, Maryland

Built in 1880 as the Warren Glass Company, these buildings were occupied by five different glass manufacturers. It was destroyed by fire in 1913 and rebuilt as the Maryland Glass factory in 1918 which went out of business in 1935. Advertisements claimed that it was "the only factory of its kind in the United States" producing etched glass for advertising, stemware, and Flint glasswares. The buildings were demolished in 1976.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Maryland Glass Company

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Between Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Queen Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: None**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

B&amp;O Railroad

Telephone #: 724-3000

STREET &amp; NUMBER

722 Virginia Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland, 21502**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 237

Folio #: 65

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-IV-A-085

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☒ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Gone but not forgotten."

Please consult enclosed xerox copies of what pictures we could find of the Maryland Glass Company for physical description.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The development of Allegany County's large coal and glassmaking industry was initiated simultaneously in 1816. In that year Thomas and Roger Perry erected the area's first glassmaking industry using sand from the Narrows and burning coal that was brought from Frostburg. <sup>1</sup> Coal gave the glass produced an unsatisfactory greenish color so wood was then used as fuel. This produced excellent glass that was sold in towns east of Cumberland. This first venture into glassmaking proved unprofitable and was discontinued. <sup>2</sup>

The second attempt at glassmaking was made in 1857 by Roger Perry, son of the preceding glassmaker. Apparently he too tried coal as fuel with the same results and then turned to wood. This business ended during a business panic "which paralyzed the business of the country about this time." <sup>3</sup>

1876 found this area recovering from a depression and serious loss of business, but by 1878 economic recovery was underway and glassmaking returned to Allegany County on a more substantial basis. Production was heavy beginning in 1880 with the Cumberland Glass Works Company and the Warren Glass Works Company which after 38 years of irregular business became the Maryland Glass Company. As new plants and more sophisticated production developed the number of persons employed in glassmaking steadily increased. <sup>4</sup>

The original glass factory in South Cumberland was the Warren Glass Works that was formed in 1880 by a group of New York businessmen. It was located along the B&O Railroad tracks north of Virginia Avenue. No information is available to determine what kind of glasswork was produced there. <sup>5</sup>

The South Cumberland Glass Company of Allegany County organized in 1889 was located in the buildings used by the Warren company which had gone out of business. <sup>6</sup> After one year of production of different types of bottles this company was named Queen City Glass Company in 1890. This business covered seven acres and had two furnaces in service. Its location next to the B&O Railroad tracks and connections to West Virginian and Pennsylvanian Railroads was ideal for shipping purposes, with glassware being shipped all over the country. Types of ware produced included "flint glass bottles for beer, sodas, pickles, catsup, candies, and prescription vials." <sup>7</sup>

The next glass company to be located at this site was the Eastern Glass Company, organized in 1909. At first production consisted of the same types

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
 Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976.  
 Lowdermilk, Will, H. History of Cumberland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971. Reprint of the 1878 edition.  
 Thomas, J., W. & Williams. T.J.C. History of All.Co., Md. Cumb.: 1968

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.860

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany Historic Sites Survey

DATE

12/29/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

La Vale

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

of bottles produced by the Queen City Company. Within a year or two the business was diverted from bottles to a "general line of stemware and tumblers." 8 "At a time when Cumberland was due to profit from expansion of this business in 1913, a fire completely destroyed the factory dealing a blow to the city's economy." 9

In 1910 the glass industry was the sixth largest employer in the county. With effective representation by the American Flint Glassworkers Union glassworkers were the highest paid laborers in this area, earning between \$2.60 and \$4.00 a day in 1911. Due to the high number of fires in the industry few workers managed to stay at one plant throughout their working lives but jobs were always available when the fires did occur. 10

In September 1918 a new modern brick factory was constructed on this site by the Maryland Glass Company. "The company produced blown flint glassware, goblets, tumblers, and other table items, cut, polished, etched and engraved." Glass products from this company were sold in nationally prominent stores as Hutzlers, Wanamakers, Strawbridge and Clothier, Gimbels and Miller and Rhodes. 11

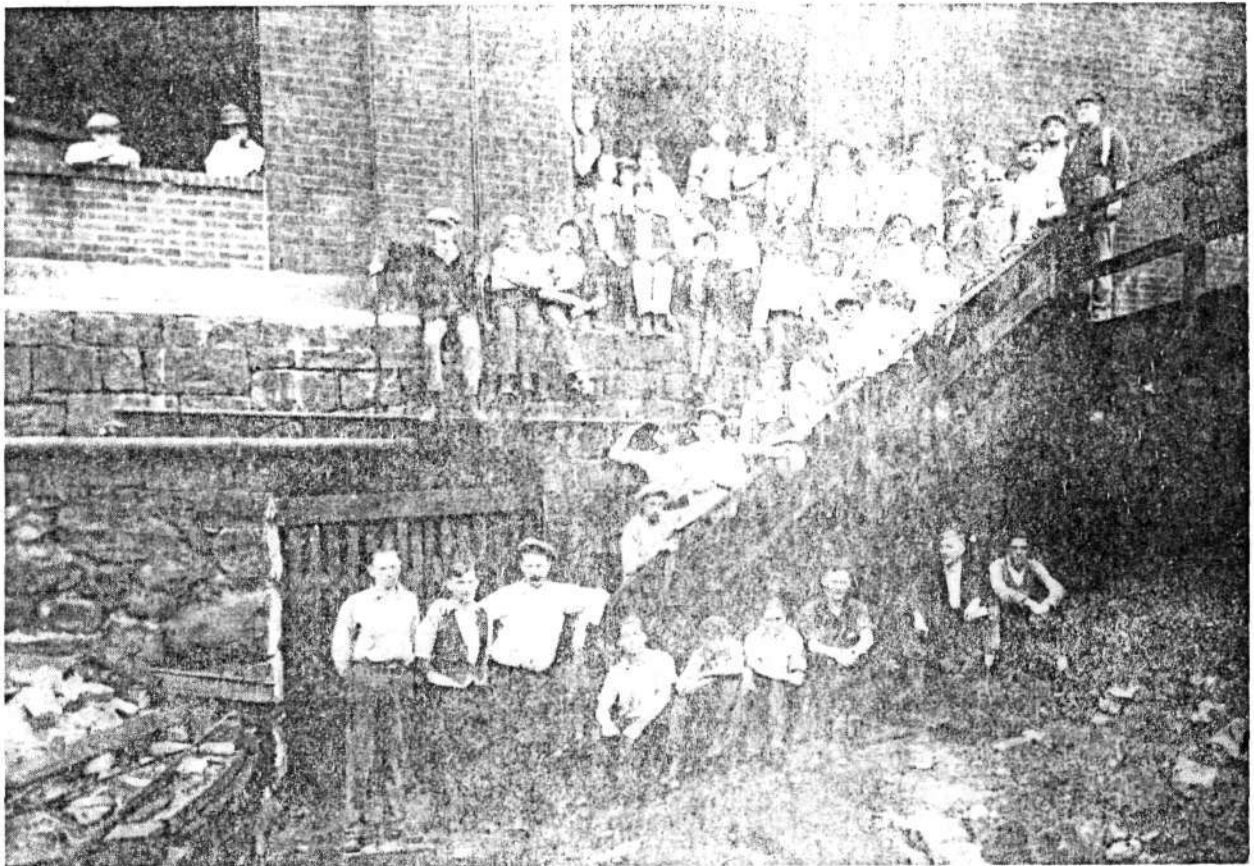
Employing about two hundred and fifty persons, the Maryland Glass Company and the rest of local industry, encountered economic distress in 1929, the beginning of the depression. By 1935 sales had dwindled so that production ended in that year. 12 An attempt by the employees to revive the business in 1936 failed. Later occupants of this site were a poultry company and B&O Railroad. 14

One of the more interesting notes concerning this company is the story of a rush order for rose colored sherberts. These special glasses were for the reception given for Charles A. Lindebergh's return from his historic trans-Atlantic flight. 15

The local glass industry peaked around 1920, using natural gas from West Virginia and sand from Berkely Springs, W. Va., and employing about one thousand persons. These glassworkers were the "elite" of the county's labor force. Fire was a major contributor to the decline of this industry during the twenties when two major firms and one minor firm burned. Fire and foreign competition eliminated most companies so that by the late twenties only the Maryland Glass Company, of the larger firms, remained. 16 Of the smaller concerns only one is currently in operation, the Queen Glass Company. (AL-V-B-007)

The story of Allegany County's glass industry is reflective of the fate of most of the county's smaller businesses during the Great Depression. The site of the Maryland Glass Company was the scene of the beginning and the end of an industry that, despite its ups and downs, contributed significantly to the wealth and cultural heritage of Allegany County.





GROUP OF MARYLAND GLASS COMPANY EMPLOYEES ABOUT 1925

First Row: Dayton Twigg, George D. Hickie, Patsy Graney, Melvin Drewnoski, James Robinette, Floyd Teets, Harley Messman, Harry Wagner and Dennis Crabtree.

On Steps: "Babe" Jones, John Robinette, Albert Groves, Theodore "Shorty" Wilson, Ray Taylor, Alvey Keller, -----, James Lewis, Harry Neal, Joe Spooler, George Drewnoski, Chauncey Genevieve and Mr. Bean.

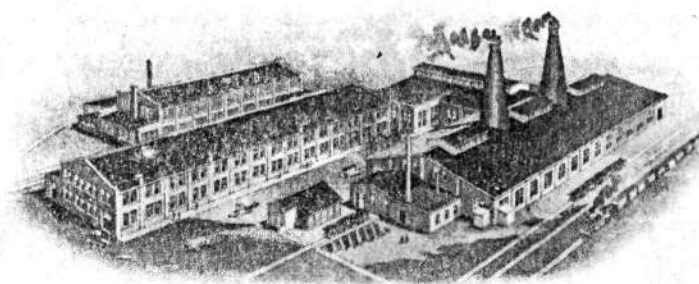
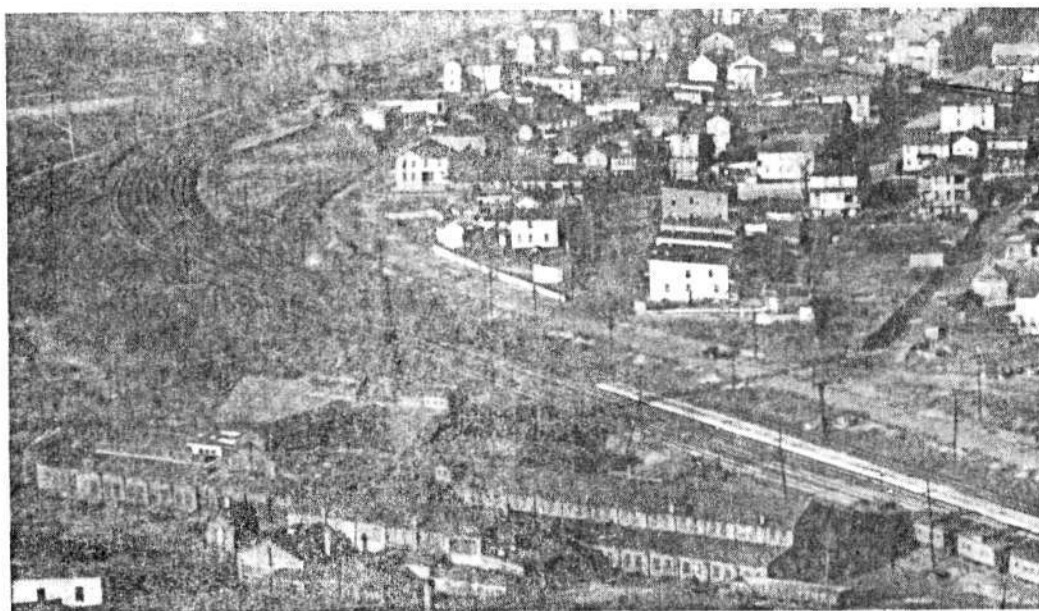
On Wall: "Deadwood" Kerns, -----, George Erickson, Henry Schupfer, Charles Genevieve, Calvin Mower, -----, Joseph Whalley, -----, Paul Dyer, George Reed, -----.

In Window: Unknown

Top Row: Kent Reckley, -----, Wayne Brady, -----, Donald McKenzie, Nick Holshey, Garland "Pee Wee" Richards, Howard Jones, "Babe" Ryan and Maurice Kirk.

Van Meter sold the property to the B & O Railroad Company, the present owner.

The last listing of the company in the telephone directory was in 1938.



# THE MARYLAND GLASS COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS OF

BLOWN FLINT GLASSWARE  
GOBLET - TUMBLERS - TABLEWARE

ETCHED, CUT, ENGRAVED

CUMBERLAND, MD.

NO ALLOWANCE FOR BREAKAGE

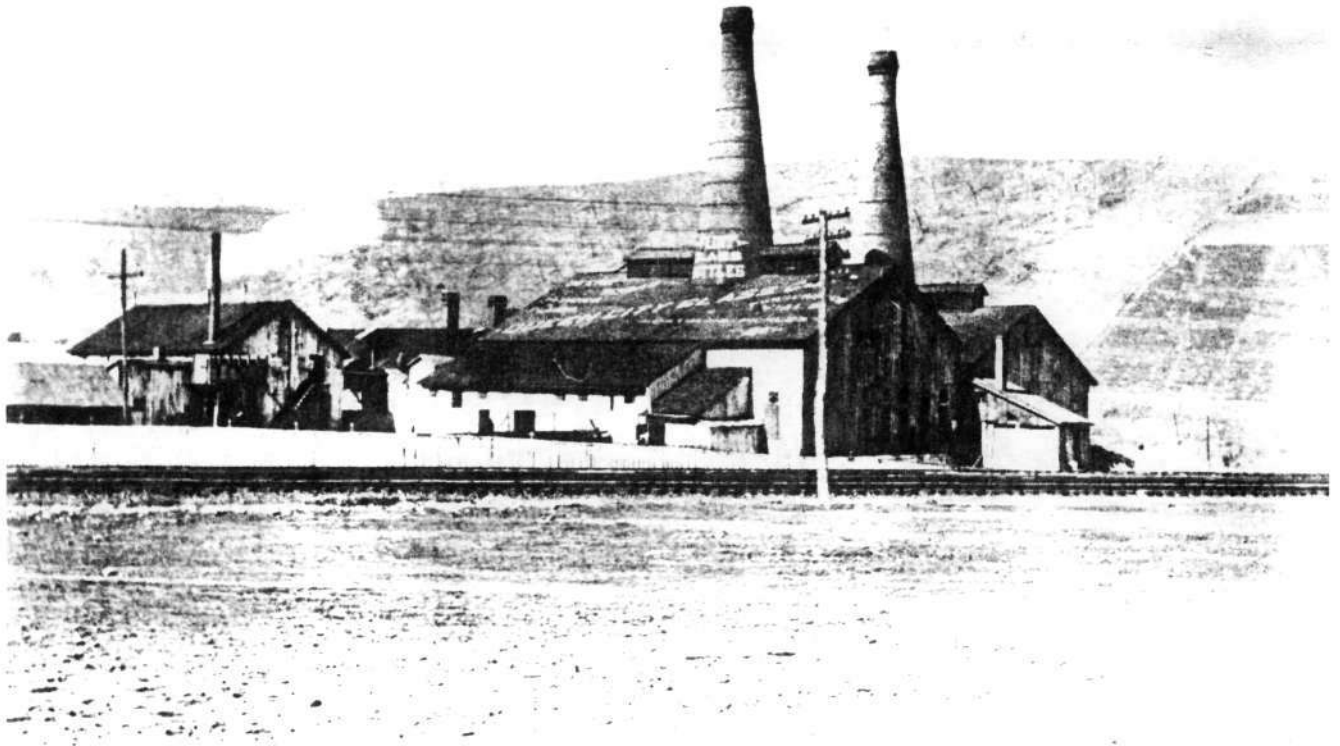
CUSTOMER'S ORDER NO.

OUR ORDER NO.

12/17/25

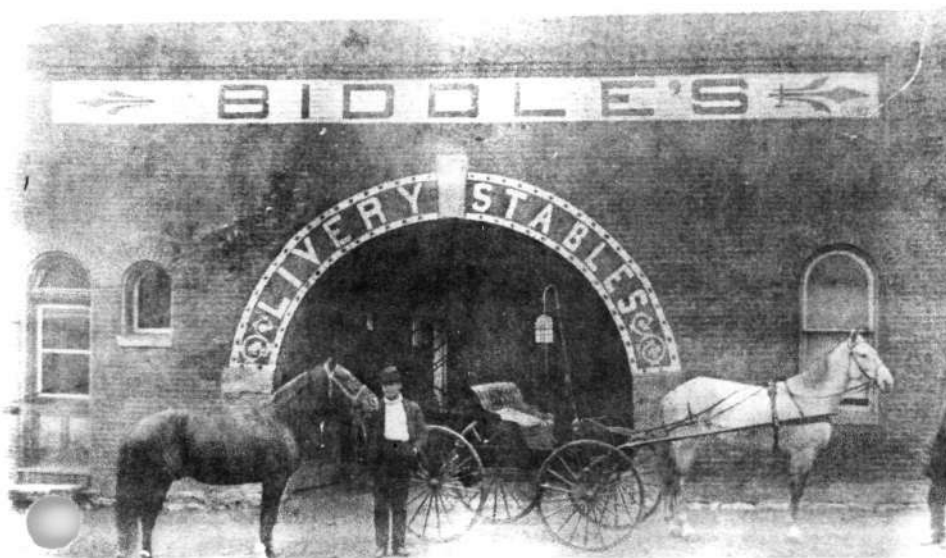


Schwartz, Lee G., Al Feldstein and Joan Baldwin  
1980 Allegany County, A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: Donning Co. 85



*Opened as the Warren Glass Works Company during the 1880s, the Queen City Glass Company acquired its new name in 1890. At its peak, this company employed between 150 and 225 workers. In 1909, a new company named the Eastern Glass Company was formed, and utilized the building until its destruction by fire in 1913.*

Photograph from  
*Art Work of Allegany County;*  
courtesy of Nadeane A. Gurley.



*Before the days of the Yellow Top Cab Company, residents of the county hired horses and carriages from Biddle's Livery Stable on Frederick Street.*

Photograph courtesy of  
Allegany County Historical Society.

THE  
ONLY FACTORY  
OF THIS KIND  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE  
AND PRICES.



SKETCHES AND SAMPLES  
ON APPLICATION.

CUMBERLAND, MD.

## Manufacturers of Decorated Glassware Exclusively.

ETCHED GLASS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES A SPECIALTY.

Best Medium, Adapted for the last Twelve Years through us by

BREWERS.

DISTILLERS.

HOTELS.

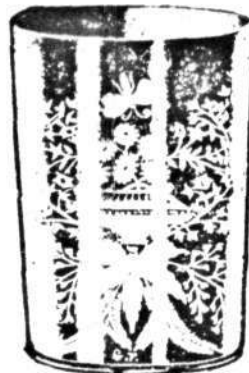
Etc., Etc.



Thin Blown Beer Glass.  
CONTENTS 6 OZ.



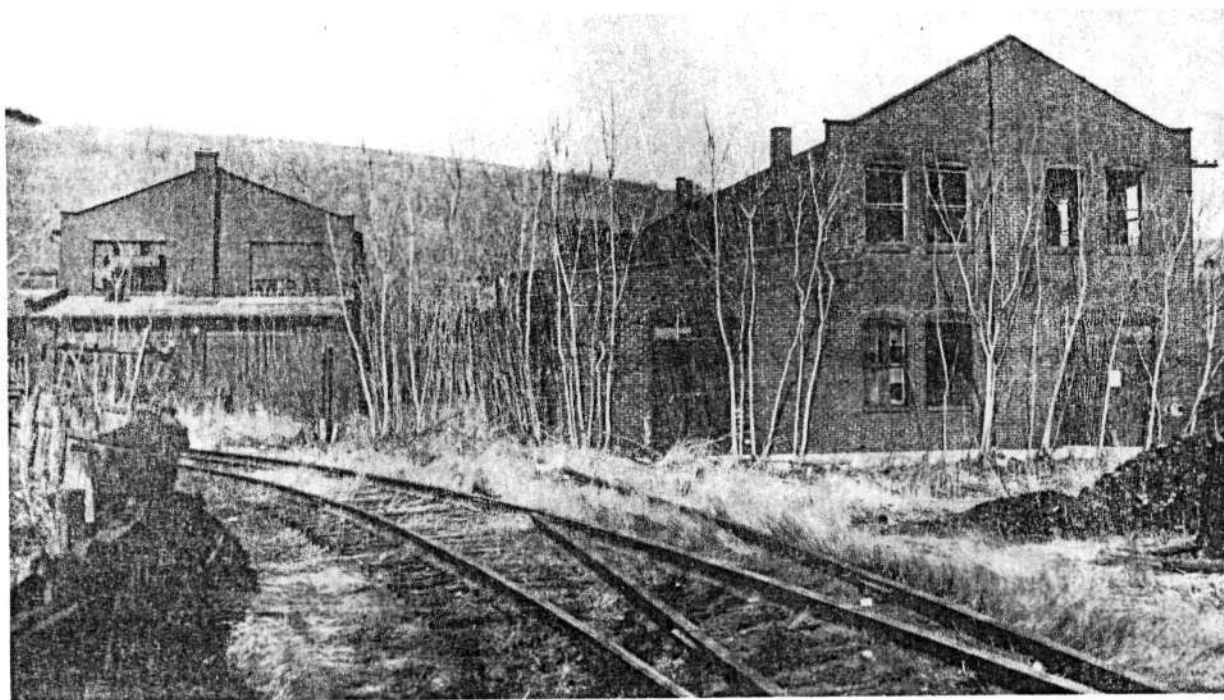
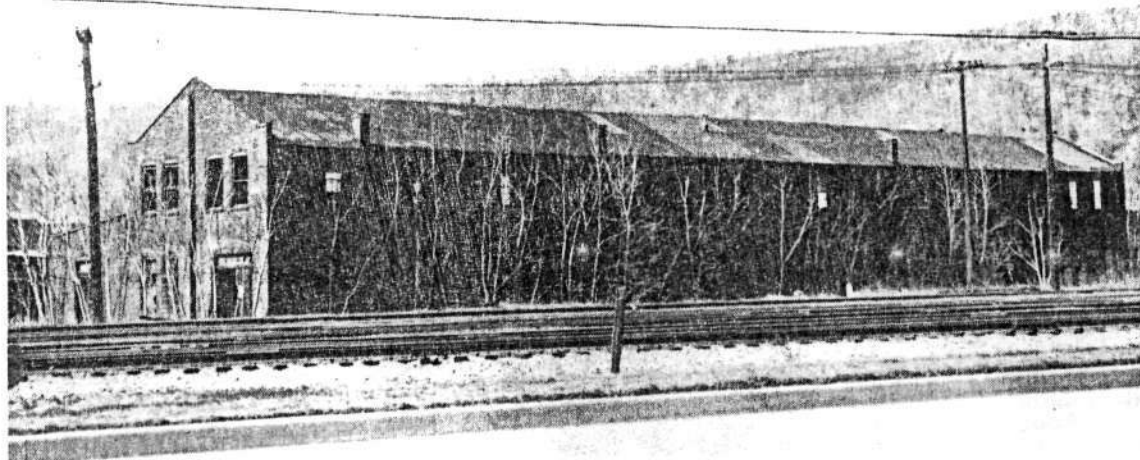
Thin Blown Whiskey Tumbler.  
CONTENTS 4 OZ.



Any desired Special  
Designs of  
TRADE MARKS,  
NAMES, DEVICES, ETC.  
Etched on Glass.

For example, see the Whiskey Tumbler, the Beer Glass, the Brandy Snifter, the Hotel Tumbler.

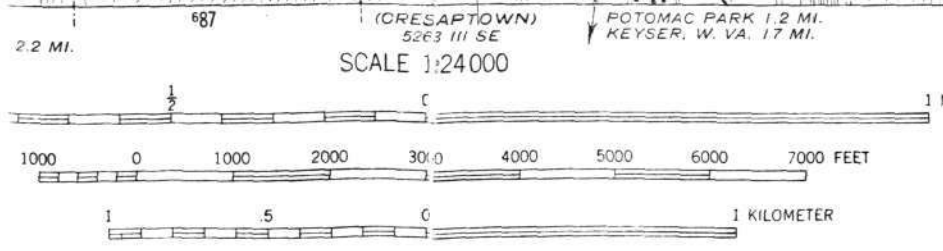
"Heritage Review News" No. 77, Vol. 3, June, 1975.



Remaining buildings of the Maryland Glass Company taken from the Industrial Boulevard and the B & O Railroad Company siding which served the plant.

1. Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County-A History (Parsons: W.Va: McClain Printing Co., 1976) p. 130. (hereafter cited as Stegmaier et al.)
2. Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971) p. 303-304.
3. James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1923) p. 162.
4. Stegmaier et al p.p. 215-217.
5. James W. Bishop, The Glass Industry of Allegany County, Maryland (Cumberland: Commercial Press Printing Company, 1968) p.p. 18-19.
6. Ibid p. 21.
7. Ibid p. 22.
8. Ibid p. 37.
9. Ibid p. 38.
10. Stegmaier et al p. 217.
11. Bishop p. 49.
12. Ibid
13. Stegmaier et al p. 353
14. Bishop p. 49
15. Ibid p. 53
16. Stegmaier et al p.p. 317-319





CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST  
THIS MAP IS AVAILABLE WITH OR WITHOUT SHADED RELIEF OVERPRINT

SHORT GAP 6.2 MI.  
FORT ASHBY 11 MI.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

CUMBERLAND, MD.-PA.-W.V.  
NE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3937.5-W7845/7.5  
1949  
AMS 5263 III NE-SERIES V833

**AL-IV-A-085**  
**MARYLAND GLASS COMPANY SITE**  
**OFF QUEEN ST. CUMBERLAND, MD 21502**

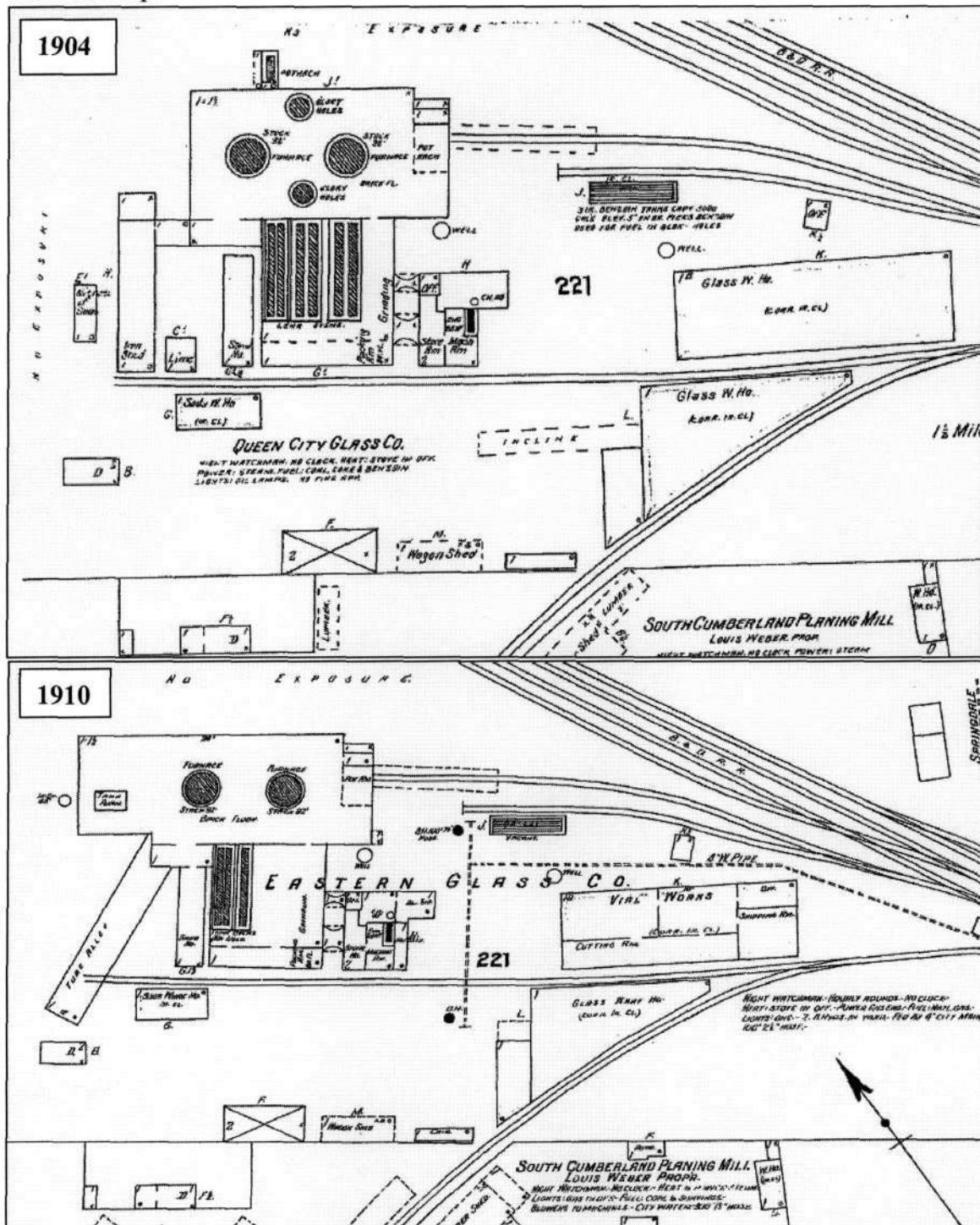
AL-IV-A-085

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Allegany</u> TOWN <u>Cumberland</u> VICINITY STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>AL-44</u>	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		2. NAME <u>Maryland Glass Company</u> (SITE) DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
OPEN TO PUBLIC			
<p>(16B.) <u>Maryland Glass Company</u></p> <p>Cumberland had several glass factories that operated in the late 19th Century, and perhaps foremost among these was the Maryland Glass Company. Its hand-blown glass was the most exquisite and delicate of its time and was purchased far and wide. The factory is not in operation today but many people still cherish the beautiful handicraft it produced.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior			
Source: <u>Historic Landmarks in Allegany County; a staff report by the Allegany County Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, Jan. 1965</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



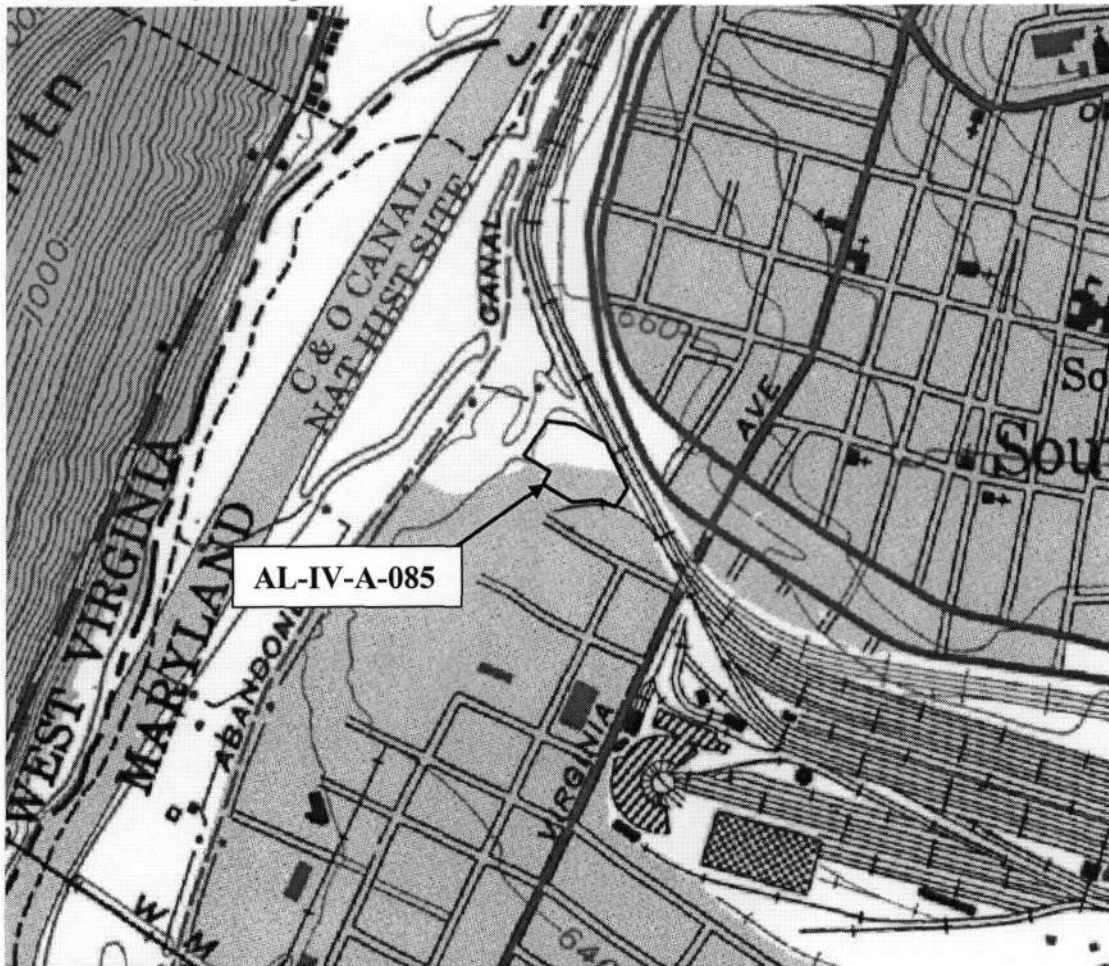
Maryland Glass Company (Eastern Glass Company, Queen City Glass Company)  
Sanborn Maps





AL-IV-A-085

Maryland Glass Company, site (Eastern Glass Company, Queen City Glass Company)  
Cumberland Quadrangle





AL-IV-A-085

MARYLAND GLASS COMPANY SITE

QUEEN STREET, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

1/12/78

NORTH





AL-IV-A-085

MARYLAND GLASS COMPANY SITE

QUEEN STREET, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

1/12/78

EAST